UNESCO LAUNCHES GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT IN LAHORE

Lahore: The tenth Education for All Global Monitoring Report (EFA GMR) entitled “Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work” of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was launched in Lahore today, in the presence of NGOs, policy makers and educationists. The participants urged commitment to investing on youth and skills.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director, UNESCO Pakistan, in her opening remarks quoted from the global speech of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova said, “I would like to dedicate this ceremony to Ms. Malala Yousafzai, a young brave activist for the right of girls to the education of Pakistan, assaulted last week, because she wanted to go school”. Dr. Nagata further added, “We must provide basic skills but also transferable and relevant skills to life -- the skills of team work, creativity, problem solving, ICT, tolerance and respect to diversity.”

The report reveals that there are 5.1 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, of which 63% are girls; this calls for coordinated action to bring these children to school.

Dr. Nagata continued, “We are facing the challenges to address the issue of lack of foundation skills (reading and arithmetic) among youths, which are to be acquired in
primary and secondary schools. Unfortunately 7.2 millions adolescents are out-of-school in Pakistan.”

Senior National Education Specialist UNESCO, Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan, highlighted in his presentation that according to Global Monitoring Report only 40% of females of age 15 and above are literate, which is projected to be 47% by year 2015; thus special attention is needed to eliminate gender disparity.

“Education is the best investment in the societies we want, in the economies we need. The Report estimates that every $1 you spend on child’s education yields $10-$15 in economic growth over that person’s working life time,” Dr. Nagata quoted from Director – General UNESCO’s comments for Global Monitoring Report.

The Global Monitoring Report urges on faster progress for quality education and adult literacy to meet its goals by the deadline of 2015.